

## FURTHER DATA ON POLI'S GENERIC NAMES.

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I WAS interested to read the article on Poli and his nomenclature by Mr. Jukes-Browne in the June issue of the Proceedings of the Society. With his general conclusions I am in full agreement. The question whether Poli used a binomial or Linnæan system of nomenclature can only be answered in the negative, and consequently his names, as such, have only an historical value. They remained available for any binomialist who might choose to validate them, and take date only from such validation. By this I do not mean that a mere reference to a name of Poli would suffice, unless it was made evident that the author had the intention of adopting it binomially.

Mr. Jukes-Browne cites seven of Poli's names which "have been used conchologically" by subsequent authors, by which I understand him to mean that they have been adopted in preference to other names by those authors. He is, however, in error in supposing that I desire to reject or have rejected any names properly proposed which had previously been used by Poli. If he had carried his investigations a little further he would have found that, on the contrary, I had accepted such names, or at least two of them. Let us examine these names in the order Mr. Jukes-Browne has cited them.

(1) *Peronæa* was adopted by Mörch in 1853 (Yoldi Catalogue, pt. ii, p. 12), but Albers had used *Peroneus* for a land shell in 1850; *Peronea*, Curtis, and *Peronia*, Blainville, date from 1824, and *Peronia*, Desvoidy, from 1830. The two latter are of different derivation, but near enough to be confusing. The existence of Albers' name is sufficient, according to present usage, to make a new name necessary for the *Peronæa*, Mörch; for which accordingly I proposed *Peronidia*.

(2) *Callista* was used by Leach (published by Gray in 1852) for a group of Veneridæ, distinct from that for which Poli had used it, and which had been named *Clausina* by Brown in 1827. *Callista* is therefore a synonym of *Clausina*. The different application of *Callista* by Mörch in the Polian sense in 1853 was therefore futile.

(3) *Arthemis* was validated by Oken in 1815, but *Dosinia*, Scopoli, antedated *Arthemis* by thirty-three years.

(4) *Loripes* was validated by Cuvier in 1817, and I have adopted it in my Synopsis of the Lucinacea, 1901, p. 803.

(5) *Glossus* was validated by Oken in 1815, but *Isocardia*, Lamarck, antedates the validation by fifteen years.

(6) *Argus* had been validated by Bohadsch, 1761, and Scopoli, 1777, before Poli took it up in 1795.

(7) *Axinæa* when proposed by Poli in 1791 was already named *Glycymeris* by Da Costa, in 1778, with the type of *Arca glycymeris*, Linné.

Of the names for the shells, as distinguished from the animals, *Daphnoderma* was proposed by Mörch for *Arca Domingensis*, Lamarck,

in 1853 (op. cit., p. 40). Poli's name was *Daphnæoderma*. This group had already been called *Acar* by Gray in 1847.

*Peronæoderma* was proposed by Mörch in 1853 for *Tellina polita*, Poli, and other not congruous species. If adopted, it is probable this should supersede the later *Eurytellina*, Fischer, 1887.

*Cerastoderma*, Mörch, 1853, based on *Cardium edule* and allied species, was adopted by me in my Synopsis of the Cardiidæ, 1900.

Poli, considering the appliances available at his period, was a remarkable anatomist, and relied much more on his detailed engravings to indicate his discoveries than on his text. As the former preceptor of the reigning monarch, he occupied a position in his community analogous to that which Steenstrup held for many years in Copenhagen. Funds for his profusely detailed anatomical copper-plates were always at his disposal, and a careful study of them for the anatomy of Mediterranean molluscs will often reveal facts not recorded in the manuals of the present day. The third part of his work was posthumously issued in 1826-7 by Della Chiaje.

The only disciple in his nomenclatural system I have noted is Duméril, in 1806, who modified it by adding *arius* to the generic name of the shell to denote the animal; *Pleurotomarius* being intended for the animal of *Pleurotoma*, etc. The superiority of the Linnæan system, however, gave these methods no chance of survival.